

# Lake Mead

## Environmental Education

National Recreation Area  
National Park Service



### Grade 1 - Field Program

#### *"Who Lives Here?"*



<b>Theme</b>	The Mojave Desert is home to a variety of animals
<b>Objectives</b>	Students will identify three animal homes. Students will identify at least three needs of animals - food, water and shelter. Students will explore one way they can protect an animal's habitat.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<u>burrow</u> - a hole in the ground made by an animal for its home <u>desert</u> - an area that receives less than 10 inches of rainfall a year and has a high rate of evaporation <u>habitat</u> - the place where an animal or plant lives in nature
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>All animals, wherever they live, need food, water and shelter to survive. The desert is a challenging habitat for animals to live in because of its extreme environment. The Mojave Desert receives little annual rainfall (about 4 to 6 inches ) and drought conditions are a common occurrence. The air is very dry and there is always a varying degree of wind. Though the Mojave Desert has extremely high air temperatures during the summer days, it cools rapidly in the evenings. Due to these high temperatures (110 - 115 degrees F.) many animals make their homes underground where it can be much cooler.</p> <p>One of the most commonly seen animal homes in the Mojave Desert is a burrow. Animals that make their homes in burrows include ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, tortoises, tarantulas, burrowing owls, cottontail rabbits, and badgers just to name a few. Jackrabbits do not burrow underground, but dig depressions under desert shrubs.</p>
<b>Before the Field Trip</b>	In preparation for your field trip, a ranger will be conducting a program in your classroom. Topics such as safety at the park, the mission of the National Park Service and expectations while on the field trip will be presented at that time.
<b>After the Field Trip Activity</b>	After your field program, when you are back in the classroom, have the students choose the picture of their favorite animal home from their journals. Under the picture, have the student fill in the sentence: "I can protect this animal home, by _____"

***Making a difference!*** Your students can begin to make a difference wherever they live. Have your class come up with a project using the experience from their field trip to Lake Mead National Recreation Area to show others that they care about their desert community.



Teachers! - check out our web site: <http://www.nps.gov/lame>